# MINUTES
# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
# COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
November 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Francis Michelini at 1:30 pm.

**Attending:**

Erin Agnew
James Agras
James Barker (via phone)
Kevin Bates
Wendy Beetlestone
Emily Clark
Paul Ferrerra
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Kirk Hallett
Francis Michelini
Jonathan Peri
Mollie Phillips (via phone)
Colleen Sheehan (via phone)
Ed Sheehan (via phone)
Karen Farmer White (via phone)
A. Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Dungee Glenn** motion.

## REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. L. Jill Hans, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary/Higher Education provided the following report:

### Governor's Advisory Commission on Postsecondary Education

- The Governor's Advisory Commission on Postsecondary Education has concluded its work and will be issuing a report with recommendations for the Governor.
- The Commission held field meetings and heard not only concerns from Commonwealth citizens but also heard from citizens who recognize the rich asset that constitutes our postsecondary education system. Commission members deliberated and debated many issues and additionally heard from experts in the education and industry sectors.
- Recommendations are being made to support the user of the system with regard to remediation, portability of credits, and accessibility and affordability of the postsecondary system, to name a few. There are 19 recommendations under four broad categories: 1. Affirming opportunities for lifelong learning; 2. Ensuring greater accessibility, affordability and usability of postsecondary education; 3. Recognizing and supporting the diversity and richness of the postsecondary education system; and 4. Enhancing Pennsylvania's economic vitality and the ability for the Commonwealth to compete globally.

- The report will be made available online at www.pahigheredcommission.com

**Transfer and Articulation**

- The state's college credit transfer system supports students in saving time and money by allowing students to transfer individual courses and associate degrees among participating colleges and universities with minimal or no loss of credits.
- The system includes five key components: 1. The Transfer & Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC); 2. Participating Institutions (public institutions mandated; state-related and privates can "opt-in"); 3. Transfer Credit Framework (an advising tool, not a common general education curriculum); 4. Statewide program articulation of associate degrees to bachelor degrees in specific programs of study; and 5. Transfer portal (an interactive website with college profiles, guide to the Transfer Framework, searchable databases, tips and checklists)
- The Fall 2012 semester marked the launch of Statewide Program-to-Program Articulation in Pennsylvania. This type of transfer collaboration allows students with Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees to transfer as juniors into a participating college or university and receive at least 60 credit hours toward a bachelor degree in a compatible program of study.
- Statewide Program-to-Program Articulation is now available for students pursuing the following programs of study: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, English, Environmental Geoscience, Geology, Mathematics & Statistics, Meteorology, Physical Oceanography, Physics, PK-4 Education (updated), Psychology, Political Science
- Additional Articulations from an associate degree to a bachelor degree will be available by fall 2013 in the following programs: Art, Communications, Criminal Justice, Environmental Science, Geography, History, Modern Languages, Music, Social Work, Sociology, Theatre
- Information about the transfer system, including statewide program articulation, is available publicly on the Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC) website at www.PAcollegetransfer.com

**Pennsylvania Electronic Student Records And Transcripts System -PA eSTARS**

- Educational institutions are under greater administrative burden to process student record and transcript requests due to an increase in student mobility, college-in-the-high school programs and college applications. As a result, states like Pennsylvania are collaborating on broad PK-20 initiatives to make the process more efficient and cost-effective, as well as to enhance the reliability and security of the information being exchanged.
- In July 2012, PDE launched the *Pennsylvania Electronic Student Records and Transcripts System* (PA eSTARS). This is a federally-funded initiative to facilitate the

electronic exchange of student records and transcripts among the commonwealth's PK-20 education institutions.

- PDE conducted an extensive procurement process and selected *Docufide*® by Parchment™ as the technical solution for the initiative.
- Participation in PA eSTARS is voluntary and open to nearly 1,000 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in Pennsylvania.
- Eligible institutions that sign up by June 30, 2013 (the grant expiration date), will have their start-up costs covered by the federal grant.
- As of November 6, 2012, 148 high schools and 13 IHEs in Pennsylvania had contracted with Parchment.
- A "student record" is comprised of the information accumulated throughout a student's academic career, including course credits received, grades earned, and participation in extracurricular activities. The "student transcript" is a subset of this information used by colleges and universities in making admissions decisions. Student records are exchanged among K-12 institutions and LEAs. Student transcripts are sent from secondary schools and IHEs to other IHEs.
- A unified digital system, like *Docufide*®, provides schools safer and faster access to complete student records, which is essential at the preK-12 level for ensuring that students are placed into the correct classes and receive appropriate services in a timely manner.
- At the postsecondary level, the quick and confidential delivery of transcripts assures students that their admissions applications are received and their previous coursework is considered in academic planning.

## ACT 101 PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Christine Zuzack, Vice President of State Grants & Special Programs, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), appeared before the Board for a presentation on Act 101 Program implementation. Historically, the State Board had regulatory oversight of Act 101 since the program's inception in 1971. However, the General Assembly amended the Fiscal Code to transfer responsibility for the program to PHEAA in 2011-2012. Ms. Zuzack commented that PHEAA welcomed the opportunity to continue providing the State Board with an annual Act 101 Program update.

Following are highlights of Mr. Zuzack's remarks to the Board:

- Act 101 provides educational opportunities for economically and educationally-disadvantaged students. Campus-based efforts are designed to help with educational deficiencies through a number of supports, including tutoring, academic skills sessions, counseling, academic and career guidance, student events, lending libraries, and peer programs.
- Due to the transfer to PHEAA, there was a shortened timeframe for implementation; in order not to disadvantage any of the schools or students currently participating, PHEAA

awarded the same allocations of funds granted the previous year during the Agency's first year with responsibility for implementation.

- PHEAA met with and received feedback from all participating schools in September and convened an advisory group of eight institutions with whom the Agency continues to maintain contact for ongoing feedback and guidance on the program.
- The Act 101 2011-12 End-of-Year Report will be finalized at the advisory group's next meeting on December 11, 2012.
- For the 2011-12 year there were 33 institutions with 35 programs participating in Act 101(two of the institutions have two locations). For the 2012-13 year, 35 schools will be participating. This includes PASSHE institutions, community colleges, 4-year private schools, non-profit, and state-related institutions.
- Over 3,100 students were served last year through the Act 101 Program.
- Act 101 funding allocated for 2011-12 is $2.3 million, which represents a cut from previous years.
- In September 2012, the PHEAA Board of Directors met to consider the Act 101 appropriation request for 2013-14. They Board has requested a 5% increase in the appropriation from the General Assembly because they believe the program is worthy of support.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Karen Molchanow

Karen Molchanow
Executive Director